CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

SUB A1

1. A sled module for a mass storage device comprising:

a housing;

a circuit board mounted to a portion of the housing, the circuit board having an end mounted connector for control signals;

a mass storage device having an enclosure and a control signal connector;

spacers positioning the mass storage device within the housing at a position juxtaposed with respect to the circuit board such that the signal connectors on the circuit board and the mass storage device are aligned with one another, the spacers thus permitting the sled module to adapt to mass storage devices having enclosures with different configurations.

2. The sled module of claim 1 additionally comprising:

a cover, wherein the cover has a hole for allowing the mass storage device to protrude through the cover when in its mounted position.

3. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device has a data interface port and a power supply port and the circuit board has a data interface connector and a power supply connector.

SUB A2

4. The sled module of claim 2 wherein the spacers position the mass storage device such that the data interface and power supply ports on the mass storage device mate with data interface and power supply connectors on the circuit board.

5. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device is a hard disk drive.

6. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM drive, DVD drive, or digital tape drive.

7. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of plastic.

8. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of rubber.

9. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of a flexible material.

10. The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of a compressible material.

SUB A3

11. A method for mounting a mass storage device having an enclosure and a control signal connector comprising:

providing a sled module comprising a housing, a circuit board mounted to a portion of the housing, the circuit board having an end mounted connector for signals;

positioning spacers within the housing such that the mass storage device, when inserted into the housing, is positioned with respect to the circuit board such that the signal connectors on the circuit board and the mass storage device are aligned with one another; and

inserting the mass storage device within the housing.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the mass storage device is a hard disk drive.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of plastic.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of rubber.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of a flexible material.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of a compressible material.